BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2026

Present	**Remote (via Zoom)**
Jacqueline Carr – Isle of Wight County	
Rhonda Chambliss – City of Franklin	
Evelyn Ellis – Surry County	
Charlene Herrala – Isle of Wight County	
Pam Lease – City of Franklin	
Kathy Lippard – Isle of Wight County	
Margie McClenny – Southampton County	**Absent**
Karen Richardson – Sussex County	MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County
Judge Alfreda Talton-Harris – City of Franklin	
Kisha Watford – Southampton County	
Johanna Wiggins – Isle of Wight County	
Bonnie Lauver – Assistant Library Director	
Debbie Carter – Budget & Finance Manager	

Chair Karen Richardson called the meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 2:52 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Agenda
Ms. Lippard moved, and Ms. Watford seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Consideration of Remote Meeting Participation Requests
None

Minutes
Ms. Carr moved, and Ms. Watford seconded the minutes be approved as presented. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment
None

Correspondence
None

Library Director's Report
Summer Reading Challenge 2026 was a success! 770 participants of all ages logged 288,538 minutes read in the Beanstack app! Be on the lookout for the Hispanic Heritage Month and Hallow-Read reading challenges!

America 250/VA250: In an effort to recognize and remember this significant event in Southampton County, a Nat Turner documentary was offered at the Courtland Branch on August 21st. We were proud to have three members of Nat Turner's family among the attendees.

All branches will be closed Monday, October 12th for a staff training day.

Committee Reports
Budget & Finance – no report

Personnel & Policy – no report

Search – Ms. Richardson – The committee will meet following this board meeting to review applications.

Accounts Payable
Ms. Herrala moved, and Ms. Carr seconded that the accounts payable be filed for the Annual Audit. Ten Trustees voted yea; Ms. Ellis abstained due to not being on the Board in July or August, when the payables occurred.

Unfinished Business
None

New Business
None

Board Member Comments/Announcements
Herrala – Windsor FOTL held a book sale. Made money and cleaned out the shed!
McClenny – spends lots of time in Courtland!
Lippard – SM Summer Reading closeout was great!
Carr – Met Windsor branch staff
Richardson – Smithsonian & National Archives are looking for volunteers to transcribe historic documents
Lease – loved Franklin's September Craftsy!
Wiggins – Smithfield is partnering with Girl Scouts to start a food pantry
Chambliss – has been donating books to Franklin branch
Harris – has been utilizing Notary services

Announcement of Next Meeting
The next Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees meeting will be on October 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Adjournment
Ms. Lippard moved, and Ms. Lease seconded the meeting be adjourned. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for
Charlene Herrala, Secretary